TL4146

Statement by Mr Satsuki Eda MP. (Japan) Mr Tony Lamb MP (Australia) and Lord Avebury (United Kingdom)

We came here having noted recent constructive developments in the problem of East Timor:

* The positive statements made by the President of the Republic and the Government of Portugal regarding East Timor since the last General Assembly of the United Nations.

* The resolution on East Timor tabled in the European Parliament by the Political Affairs Committee.

* The common stand adopted by the 12 EEC Foreign Ministers on East Timor at the joint EEC/Asean meeting in May.

* The Resolution by the UN Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities on East Timor at their meeting of August 1987.

* The suggestion by Mario Carrascalao, Governor of East Timor, and its endorsement by General Rudini, Indonesian Minister of the Interior that open access to East Timor should be allowed.

In the light of these developments, and the discussions held over three days in Lisbon with members of the East Timor community, representatives of the East Timor Convergence (Fretilin and UDT), the President of the Asambleia Nacional, the Deputy Foreign Minister, and the Parliamentary Commission on East Timor, we have decided to launch Parliamentarians for East Timor, a new organisation to coordinate and promote activities in support of a just solution to the problem of East Timor in as many countries as possible.

The organisation will base its actions on the Declaration signed by some 450 Parliamentarians in June 1985, a copy of which is attached.

Among the initiatives we are considering are:

* The publication of a factual account of the Indonesian invasion and annexation of the territory, contrary to Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter.

* Publication of a note on United Nations declarations on the right of self-determination, and their application to the case of East Timor.

* An approach to the Secretary General of the United Nations, asking him to say when he proposes to begin consultations with the people of East Timor, as required by General Assmbly Resolution 37/30 of November 1982.

* Petitioning the UN Decolonisation Committee in August.